THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from Govt. of J&K and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Noise Pollution in Delhi

1279. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some important intersections in Delhi have been identified as having noise level more than the permissible limits;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to tackle the high noise pollution level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) According to Noise Surveys carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the noise level at some of the traffic intersections in Delhi were found to be higher than the prescribed standards.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following:

(1) Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas have been notified. Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment to be adopted at the manufacturing stage. Noise limits for automobiles have to be met by December, 1992 while those for appliances and equipment are to be met by December, 1993.

(2) Codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and the various State Governments have been requested to implement the same.

(3) In Delhi to control noise pollution, 19 areas around educational institutions and 28 areas around hospitals and 23 residential/office areas have been declared as silence zones. Restrictions placed on blowing of horns in these zones are being enforced by the Delhi Traffic Police. Prosecutions have been launched against the violators of these restrictions.

Indian Forest Services Division

1280. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study of the working of the Indian Forest Service Division which was conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management of the Department of Personnel and Training has found serious lapes in the implementation of perssonnel policy and career management of the officers of the Indian Forest Service;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the situation since the report was submitted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same report had also suggested further studies to be carried out for better personnel management; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken till now and intends to take in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) While no lapses as such have been identified by the study in the working of the Cadre Management Division of the Indian Forest Service, the Study team of the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management has made a number of recommendations for revising procedures for timely completion of annual confidential reports, confirmation of officers, disposal of representations, memorials and appeals, maintenance of property returns, reviews for continuance in

service etc. The Team has also made recommendations for restructuring of records and strengthening of manpower resources of the Division. Further studies have been recommended on staff requirements, records management and need for training of staff and modern office equipment.

The study was a part of the continuing exercise of the Staff Inspection Unit to evaluate Divisions' indents for augmentation of personnel strength and find ways and means of streamlining administrative procedures.

Environmental Clearance for Power Projects

1281. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to issue a single set of guidelines for environmental clearance;

(b) by when, Government propose to announce a realistic environment policy in this regard; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a suggestion given by Minister of Power and published in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd July, 1992 captioned "Single set of environmental clearance norms mooted", if so, reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Even now, only one set of Guidelines is being adopted for formulation of environmental management plans for power projects.

(c) Yes, Sir. The present guidelines are based on uniform norms and have been evolved over the years in consultation with the project authorities from different States and environmental action plans are prepared taking into account site specific needs of the project.

असम के जंगलों में गैंडों को मारा जाना

1282. **चौधरी हरि सिंह :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस तथ्य की जानकारी है कि असम के जंगलों और वहां के काजीरंगा अभ्यारण्य में रहने वाले गैंडों को बिजली के करंट द्वारा चोरी छिपे मारा जा रहा है जिसके कारण वहां पर उनकी संख्या घट गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गैंडों को इस प्रकार मारे जाने से रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रभावशाली कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) काजीरंगा अभ्यारण्य और असम के अन्य क्षेत्रों में विद्युत मारण के जरिए कुछ गैंडों की मौत के बारे में समय-समय पर रिपोर्ट मिली हैं । तथापि, राज्य में गैंडों की संख्या में कमी होने की खबर नहीं है । गैंडों की संख्या, जो 1972 में 658 थी, 1990 में बढ़कर 1250 होने की खबर है ।

(ख) इस प्रकार की हत्याओं को रोकने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों में निम्नलिखित शामिल हैं :—

1. गैंडे को वन्यजीव (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, 1972 की अनुसूची—1 में शामिल किया गया है, इस प्रकार इसको यथासम्भव कानूनी सुरक्षा प्रदान की गई है । इसके सींगों और अन्य उत्पादों के व्यापार पर पूर्ण प्रतिबन्ध है ।

2. वन्य वनस्पतिजात और प्राणिजात की संकटापन्न प्रजातियों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार संबंधी कन्वेंशन, जिसका भारत एक पक्षकार है, के तहत गैंडे के सींगों के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर प्रतिबन्ध है ।

3. भारत सरकार "असम में गैंडों का संरक्षण" नामक केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित स्कीम के तहत गैंडों की सुरक्षा और असम में